(c) what steps Government propose to take to tighten the procedure for the issue of all medicines from ayurvedic dispensaries so as to minimize the pilferage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir. There is no specific instance of pilferage of medicines under CGHS has come to light.

The restricted medicines are issued against special chits printed for the purpose. The signature of the beneficiaries is taken on these chits along with the CGHS token card number and OPD number. For non-restricted items, the medicines are issued with proper entries in the register maintained for the purpose. Signature of the beneficiaries is taken in the register to mitigate scope for misappropriation or pilferage.

(b) All ayurvedic patent and proprietary medicines are issued against the chits. There is an ayurvedic formulary for restricted and general medicines duly approved by the Competent Authority.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, the question does not arise.

Birth Rate

54. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the birth rate in India is much higher than China;

(b) if so, whether population in India would not overtake Chinese population in the span of few years; and

(c) in what manner Government are tackling the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. As per report of the WHO 'Selected Health Indicators' the birth rate of China is 13.38 and as per Sample Registration System (SRS) birth rate of India is 25.4, for the year 2001.

(b) As per UN Publication (World Population Prospects-1998), projected population of India and China are as below:

(In Million)

Country/Year	2002	2005	2030	2050
India	1041	1087	1383	1529
China	1294	1326	1496	1478

(c) The steps taken by the Government to control the growth rate of the population is as follows:

- An integrated and holistic programme for Reproductive and Child Health and Contraception has been in operation. New measures of contraception-Copper T 380 A and Emergency contraception pills for women have been introduced.
- Government has adopted a National Population Policy (NPP) in February 2000, which provides for an Inter-sectoral agenda to bring about population stabilization, with Community involvement in administering family planning services.
- Meeting the unmet needs of health infrastructure, health personnel and contraception and providing integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care.
- An Empowered Action Group has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister for focused attention on improving the coverage and outreach of services in demographically weaker eight states, including family planning services.
- No Scalpel Vasectomy (NSV) method (without a cut or a stitch) of male sterilization has been introduced to promote male participation in family planning programme since 1977.

Artificial Heart Valve

†55. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any artificial valve for heart has been developed in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.